

## PIT

**PISMIERE**. *n. f.* [myra, Sax. *pisniere*, Dutch.] An ant; an emmet.

His cloaths, as atoms might prevail,  
Might fit a *pisniere* or a whale. *Prior.*

Prejudicial to fruit are *pisniere*, caterpillars and mice. *Mort.*

To **PISS**. *v. n.* [*pisser*, Fr. *pisser*, Dutch.] To make water.

I charge the *pisling* conduit run nothing but claret. *Shakef.*

One als *pisles*, the rest *pisi* for company. *L'Estrange.*

Once possels'd of what with care you fave,  
The wanton boys would *pisi* upon your grave. *Dryden.*

**PISS**. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Urine; animal water.

My spleen is at the little rogues, it would vex one more to be knock'd on the head with a *pisi*-pot than a thunder bolt. *Pope to Swift.*

**PISSABED**. *n. f.* A yellow flower growing in the grass.

**PISSBURN**. *adj.* Stained with urine.

**PISTACHIO**. *n. f.* [*pistache*, Fr. *pistachi*, Italian; *pistachia*, Latin.]

The *pistachio* is a dry fruit of an oblong figure, pointed at both ends about half an inch in length, and a third of an inch in thickness: it has a double shell, the exterior one membranaceous and thin, and the inner hard, tough and woody: the kernel is of a green colour and a soft and unctuous substance, much like the pulp of an almond, of a pleasant taste: *pistachias* were known to the ancients, and the Arabians call them *pestich* and *festich*, and we sometimes *fylich* nuts. *Hill.*

*Pistachios*, so they be good, and not musty, joined with almonds, are an excellent nourisher. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

**PISTE**. *n. f.* [French.] The track or tread a horseman makes upon the ground he goes over.

**PISTILLATION**. *n. f.* [*pistillum*, Lat.] The act of pounding in a mortar.

The best diamonds we have are comminable, and so far from breaking hammers, that they submit unto *pistillation*, and resist not an ordinary pebble. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

**PISTOL**. *n. f.* [*pistole*, *pistolet*, Fr.] A small handgun.

Three watch the door with *pistols*, that none should issue out. *Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor.*

The whole body of the horie passed within *pistol*-shot of the cottage. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

Quicksilver discharged from a *pistol* will hardly pierce through a parchment. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

A woman had a tubercle in the great canthus of the eye, of the bigness of a *pistol*-bullet. *Wise's Surgery.*

To **PISTOL**. *v. a.* [*pistoler*, Fr.] To shoot with a pistol.

**PISTOLE**. *n. f.* [*pistole*, Fr.] A coin of many countries and many degrees of value.

I shall disburden him of many hundred *pistoles*, to make him lighter for the journey. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

**PISTOLET**. *n. f.* [diminutive of *pistole*.] A little pistol.

Those unlickt bear-whelps, unh'd *pistoles*. *Shakespeare.*

That, more than cannon-shot, avails or lets. *Donne.*

**PISTON**. *n. f.* [*piston*, Fr.] The movable part in several machines; as in pumps and syringes, whereby the suction or attraction is caused; an embolus.

**PIT**. *n. f.* [pit, Saxon.]

1. A hole in the ground.

Get you gone,  
And from the *pit* of Acheron  
Meet me i' th' morning. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*

Tumble me into some loathsome *pit*,  
Where never man's eye may behold my body. *Shakespeare.*

Our enemies have beat us to the *pit*;  
It is more worthy to leap in ourselves,  
Than tarry 'till they push us. *Shakespeare, Julius Caesar.*

*Pits* upon the sea-shore turn into fresh water, by percolation of the salt through the sand; but in some places of Africa, the water in such *pits* will become brackish again. *Bacon.*

2. Abyss; profundity.

Into what *pit* thou see'st  
From what height fallen. *Milton.*

3. The grave.

O Lord, think no scorn of me, lest I become like them that go down into the *pit*. *Psalms xxviii. 1.*

4. The area on which cocks fight; whence the phrase, to fly the *pit*.

Make him glad, at least, to quit  
His victory, and fly the *pit*. *Hudibras.*

They managed the dispute as fiercely, as two game-cocks in the *pit*. *Locke on Education.*

5. The middle part of the theatre.

Let Cully, Cockwood, Fopling charm the *pit*,  
And in their folly shew the writers wit. *Dryden.*

Now luck for us, and a kind hearty *pit*;  
For he who pleases, never fails of wit. *Dryden.*

6. [*Pis, pits*, old Fr. from *pelus*, Lat.] Any hollow of the body; as, the *pit* of the stomach; the arm *pit*.

7. A dint made by the finger.

To **PIT**. *v. a.* To sink in hollows.

An anasarca, a species of dropsy, is characterised by the shining and softness of the skin, which gives way to the least impression, and remains *pitted* for some time. *Sharp.*

**PITAPAT**. *n. f.* [probably from *pas a pas*, or *patte patte*, Fr.]

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1. A flutter; a palpitation.

A lion meets him, and the fox's heart went *pitapat*. *L'Estr.*

2. A light quick step.

Now I hear the *pitapat* of a pretty foot through the dark alley: no, 'tis the son of a mare that's broken loose, and murching upon the melons. *Dryden's Don Sebastian.*

**PITCH**. *n. f.* [pic, Sax. *pix*, Lat.] The resin of the pine extracted by fire and inspissated.

They that touch *pitch* will be defiled. *Proverbs.*

Of air and water mixed together, and consumed with fire, is made a black colour; as in charcoal, oil, *pitch* and links. *Peachment on Drawing.*

A vessel smeared round with *pitch*.

3. [From *pitch*, Fr. *Skinner*.] Any degree of elevation or height.

Lovely concord and most sacred peace  
Doth nourish virtue, and fast friendship breeds,  
Weak the makes strong, and strong things does increase, *Fairy Queen.*

Till it the *pitch* of highest praise exceeds. *Shakespeare.*

How high a *pitch* his resolution soars.

Arm thy heart, and fill thy thoughts  
To mount aloft with thy imperial mistress,  
And mount her *pitch*. *Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus.*

Between two hawks, which flies the higher *pitch*,  
I have, perhaps, some shallow judgment. *Shakespeare.*

Down they fell,  
Driv'n headlong from the *pitch* of heav'n, down  
Into this deep. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. iii.*

Cannons shoot the higher *pitches*,  
The lower we let down their breeches. *Hudibras.*

Alcibiades was one of the best orators of his age, notwithstanding he lived at a time when learning was at the highest *pitch*. *Addison's Whig Examiner.*

4. Highest rise.

A beauty waining, and distressed widow,  
Seduc'd the *pitch* and height of all his thoughts  
To base declension and loath'd bigamy. *Shakespeare.*

5. State with respect to lowness or height.

From this high *pitch* let us descend  
A lower flight; and speak of things at hand. *Milton.*

By how much from the top of wondrous glory,  
Strongest of mortal men,  
To lowest *pitch* of abject fortune thou art fall'n. *Milton.*

6. Degree; rate.

To overcome in battle, and subdue  
Nations, and bring home spoils, with infinite  
Manlaughter, shall be held the highest *pitch*  
Of human glory. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xi.*

Our resident Tom  
From Venice is come,  
And hath left the statesman behind him,  
Talks at the same *pitch*,  
Is as wise, is as rich,  
And just where you left him, you find him. *Denham.*

Princes that fear'd him, grieve; concern'd to see  
No *pitch* of glory from the grave is free. *Waller.*

Evangelical innocence, such as the gospel accepts, though mingled with several infirmities and defects, yet amounts to such a *pitch* of righteousness, as we call sincerity. *South.*

When the sun's heat is thus far advanced, 'tis but just come up to the *pitch* of another set of vegetables, and but great enough to excite the terrestrial particles, which are more ponderous. *Woodward's Natural History.*

To **PITCH**. *v. a.* [*appiciare*, Italian.]

1. To fix; to plant.

On Dardan plains the Greeks do *pitch*  
Their brave pavilions. *Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida.*

Sharp stakes, pluckt out of hedges,  
They *pitched* in the ground. *Shakespeare, Henry VI.*

He counselled him how to hunt his game,  
What dart to cast, what net, what tole to *pitch*. *Fairfax.*

David prepared a place for the ark of God, and *pitched* for it a tent. *1 Chron. xv. 1.*

Mahometes *pitched* his tents in a little meadow.

When the victor  
Had conquered Thebes, he *pitched* upon the plain  
His mighty camp. *Dryden's Knight's Tale.*

To Chaffis' pleasing plains he took his way,  
There *pitch'd* his tents, and there resolv'd to stay. *Dryden.*

The trenches first they pass'd, then took their way  
Where their proud foes in *pitch'd* pavilions lay. *Dryden.*

2. To

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2. To order regularly.

In setting down the form of common prayer, there was no need to mention the learning of a fit, or the unfitness of an ignorant minister, more than that he, which describeth the manner how to *pitch* a field, should speak of moderation and sobriety in diet. *Hooker, b. v. f. 31.*

One *pitched* battle would determine the fate of the Spanish continent. *Addison on the State of the War.*

3. To throw headlong; to cast forward.

They'll not *pitch* me i' th' mire,  
Unless he bid 'em. *Shakespeare, Tempst.*

They would wrestle, and *pitch* the bar for a whole afternoon. *Spectator, N° 434.*

4. To smear with **PITCH**. [*picca*, Lat. from the noun.]

The ark *pitch* within and without. *Genesis vi. 14.*

The Trojans mount their ships, born on the waves,  
And the *pitch'd* vessels glide with easy force. *Dryden.*

Some *pitch* the ends of the timber in the walls, to preserve them from the mortar. *Moxon's Mechanical Exercises.*

I *pitched* over the convex very thinly, by dropping melted *pitch* upon it, and warming it to keep the *pitch* soft, whilst I ground it with the concave copper wetted to make it spread evenly all over the convex. *Newton's Opticks.*

5. To darken.

The air hath star'd the roses in her cheeks,  
And *pitch'd* the lily tincture of her face. *Shakespeare.*

Rose early from his bed; but soon he found  
The welkin *pitch'd* with fullen cloud. *Addison.*

6. To pave.

To **PITCH**. *v. n.*

1. To light; to drop.

When the swarm is settled, take a branch of the tree whereon they *pitch*, and wipe the hive clean. *Mortimer.*

2. To fall headlong.

The courier o'er the pommel cast the knight;  
Forward he flew, and *pitching* on his head,  
He quiver'd with his feet, and lay for dead. *Dryden.*

3. To fix choice.

We think 'tis no great matter which,  
They're all alike, yet we shall *pitch*  
On one that fits our purpose. *Hudibras.*

A free agent will *pitch* upon such a part in his choice, with knowledge certain. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

The subject I have *pitched* upon may seem improper. *South.*

I *pitched* upon this consideration that parents owe their children, not only material subsistence, but much more spiritual contribution to their mind. *Digby on the Soul.*

The covetous man was a good while at a stand; but he came however by degrees to *pitch* upon one thing after another. *L'Estrange's Fables.*

*Pitch* upon the best course of life, and custom will render it the most easy. *Tillotson's Sermons.*

I translated Chaucer, and amongst the rest *pitched* on the wife of Bath's tale. *Dryden's Fables.*

4. To fix a tent or temporary habitation.

They *pitched* by Emmaus in the plain. *1 Mac. iii. 40.*

**PITCHER**. *n. f.* [*pitcher*, French.]

1. An earthen vessel; a water pot.

With suddain fear her *pitcher* down she threw  
And fled away. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*

*Pitchers* have ears, and I have many servants;  
Besides old Gremio is hearkening. *Shakespeare.*

Pyricus was only famous for counterfeiting all base things; as earthen *pitchers* and a scullery. *Peachment on Drawing.*

Hylas may drop his *pitcher*, none will cry,  
Not if he drown himself. *Dryden.*

2. An instrument to pierce the ground in which any thing is to be fixed.

To the hills poles must be set deep in the ground, with a square iron *pitcher* or crow. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

**PITCHFORK**. *n. f.* [*pitch and fork*.] A fork with which corn is thrown upon the waggon.

An old lord in Leicestershire amused himself with mending *pitchforks* and spades for his tenants gratis. *Swift.*

**PITCHINESS**. *n. f.* [from *pitchy*.] Blackness; darkness.

**PITCHY**. *adj.* [from *pitch*.]

1. Smeared with *pitch*.

The planks, their *pitchy* coverings wash'd away,  
Now yield; and now a yawning breach display. *Dryden.*

2. Having the qualities of *pitch*.

Native petroleum, found floating upon some springs, is no other than this very *pitchy* substance, drawn forth of the strata by the water. *Woodward on Fossils.*

3. Black; dark; dismal.

Night is fled,  
Whole *pitchy* mantle over-veil'd the earth. *Shakespeare.*

I will fort a *pitchy* day for thee. *Shakespeare, Henry VI.*

*Pitchy* and dark the night sometimes appears,  
Friend to our woe, and parent of our fears;  
Our joy and wonder sometimes the excites,  
With stars unnumber'd. *Prior.*

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**PITCOAL**. *n. f.* [*pit and coal*.] Fossil coal.

The best fuel is peat, the next charcoal made of *pitcoal* of cinders. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

**PIT-MAN**. *n. f.* [*pit and man*.] He that in sawing timber works below in the pit.

With the *pitman* they enter the one end of the stuff, the topman at the top, and the *pitman* under him: the topman observing to guide the saw exactly, and the *pitman* drawing it with all his strength perpendicularly down. *Moxon.*

**PIT-SAW**. *n. f.* [*pit and saw*.] The large saw used by two men, of whom one is in the pit.

The *pit-saw* is not only used by those workmen that saw timber and boards, but is also for small matters used by joiners. *Moxon's Mechanical Exercises.*

**PITEOUS**. *adj.* [from *pity*.]

1. Sorrowful; mournful; exciting pity.

When they heard that *piteous* strained voice,  
In haste forsook their rural merriment. *Fairy Queen.*

The most arch deed of *piteous* massacre,  
That ever yet this land was guilty of. *Shakespeare, Rich. III.*

Which when Deucalion with a *piteous* look  
Beheld, he wept. *Dryden.*

2. Compassionate; tender.

If the series of thy joys  
Permit one thought less cheerful to arise,  
*Piteous* transfer it to the mournful swain. *Prior.*

She gave him, *piteous* of his case,  
A shaggy tap'try. *Pope's Dunciad.*

3. Wretched; paltzy; pitiful.

*Piteous* amends! unless  
Be meant our grand foe. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

**PITEOUSLY**. *adv.* [from *piteous*.] In a piteous manner.

I must talk of murders, rapes and massacres,  
Ruthful to hear, yet *piteously* perform'd. *Shakespeare.*

**PITEOUSNESS**. *n. f.* [from *piteous*.] Sorrowfulness; tenderness.

**PITFALL**. *n. f.* [*pit and fall*.] A pit dug and covered, into which a passenger falls unexpectedly.

Poor bird! thou'd'st never fear the net nor lime,  
The *pitfall* nor the gin. *Shakespeare, Macbeth.*

Thieves dig concealed *pitfalls* in his way. *Sandys.*

These hidden *pitfalls* were set thick at the entrance of the bridge, so that throngs of people fell into them. *Addison.*

**PITH**. *n. f.* [*pitte*, Dutch.]

1. The marrow of the plant; the soft part in the middle of the wood.

If a cion, fit to be set in the ground, hath the *pith* finely taken forth, and not altogether, but some of it left, it will bear a fruit with little or no core. *Bacon's Natural History.*

Her solid bones convert to solid wood,  
To *pith* her marrow, and to sap her blood. *Dryden.*

2. Marrow.

As doth the *pith*, which left our bodies slack,  
Strings fast the little bones of neck and back;  
So by the foul doth death string heav'n and earth. *Donne.*

The vertebres are all perforated in the middle, with a large hole for the spinal marrow or *pith* to pass along. *Ray.*

3. Strength; force.

*Pith* in Scotland is still retained as denoting strength, either corporeal or intellectual: as, that defies all your *pith*.  
Leave your England,  
Guarded with grandfires, babies and old women,  
Or pass'd, or not arriv'd to *pith* and puissance. *Shakespeare.*

Since these arms of mine had seven years *pith*. *Shakespeare.*

4. Energy; cogency; fulness of sentiment; closeness and vigour of thought and stile.

5. Weight; moment; principal part.

That's my *pith* of business  
'Twixt you and your poor brother. *Shakespeare.*

Enterprizes of great *pith* and moment,  
With this regard their currents turn awry,  
And lose the name of action. *Shakespeare, Hamlet.*

6. The quintessence; the chief part.

The owner of a foul disease,  
To keep it from divulging, lets it feed  
Ev'n on the *pith* of life. *Shakespeare, Hamlet.*